

THE QUIET HOUR.

"The Child on the Judgment Seat."

Where hast thou been toiling all day, sweet heart,
That thy brow is burdened and sad?
The Master's work may make weary feet,
But it leaves the spirit glad.
Was thy garden nipped with the midnight frost,
Or scorched with the mid-day glare?
Were thy vines laid low, or thy lilies crush'd,
That thy face is so full of care?
"No pleasant garden-toils were mine:
I have sate on the judgment seat;
Where the Master sits at eve, and calls
The children around his feet."
How comest thou on the judgment seat,
Sweet heart! Who set thee there?
"Tis a lonely and lofty seat for thee,
And well might fill thee with care.
"I climb'd on the judgment seat myself.
I have sate there alone all day,
For it grieved me to see the children around
Idling their life away.
They wasted the Master's precious seed,
They tramped the precious hours;
They trained not the vines, nor gather'd the fruits,
And they tramped the sweet, meek flowers."
And what hast thou done on the judgment seat,
Sweet heart! What didst thou there?
Would the idlers heed thy childish voice?
Did the garden mend by thy care?
"Nay, that grieved me more. I called and I cried,
But they left me there forlorn;
My voice was weak, and they heeded not,
Or they laughed my words to scorn."
Ah, the judgment seat was not for thee!
The servants were not thine!
And the eyes which adjudge the praise and the blame
See further than thine or mine.
The voice that shall sound there at eve sweet heart,
Will not raise its tones to be heard.
It will hush the earth, and hush the hearts,
And none will resist its word.
"Should I see the Master's treasures lost,
The stores that should feed His poor,
And not lift my voice, be it weak as it may,
And not be grieved sore?"
Wait till the evening falls, sweet heart,
Wait till the evening falls;
The Master is near and knoweth all;
Wait till the Master calls.
But how fared thy garden-plot, sweet heart?
Whilst thou sate'st on the judgment seat;
Who watered thy roses and train'd thy vines,
And kept them from careless feet?
"Nay, that is saddest of all to me,
That is the saddest of all:
My vines are trailing, my roses are parch'd,
My lilies droop and fall."
Go back to thy garden-plot, sweet heart;
Go back, till the evening falls,
And bind thy lilies, and train thy vines,
Till for thee the Master calls.
Go, make thy garden fair as thou canst,
Thou wilt never be alone;
Perchance he whose plot is next to thine
Will see it, and mend his own.
And the next may copy his, sweet heart,
Till all grows fair and sweet,
And when the Master comes at eve,
Happy faces His coming will greet.
Then shall thy joy be full, sweet heart,
In the garden so fair to see,
In the Master's words of praise for all,
In a look of His own for thee.

Readiness to Judge.

To condemn our brother without reason, proof or reflection, is what we each one of us do almost as soon as we are capable of thinking, and almost at every moment of the day. A habit of rash and ill-natured judgment shows more than anything else that the soul is not living the new life—the life of God. It announces that the two principles of life, humility and charity, are still foreign to it. The coarsest have a very delicate conscience when it comes to judging their neighbors. In confessing, as we needs must, that unfavorable judgments form the groundwork of conversations in general, how can we help concluding that men find their interest or their pleasure therein?

In what cases is it allowable to pass judgment? In those where to be silent would involve an offence against the glory of God, or an injustice to our neighbor. In such cases, provided we speak in our own name, there is courage and Christian generosity in clearly expressing the opinion we hold of our brothers, even when it is very unfavorable.

Before we judge like God, let us see as He does—"whose eyes are too pure to behold iniquity." Then, humbled by the evil we discover in ourselves, we shall feel that we have something better to do than to spy with curious eyes the secret sentiments of our neighbor's heart. Generally, we judge those faults and vices which directly injure society much more severely than those from which only individuals seem to suffer, because we proceed from the point of view of the general interest, in which our own is comprehended. Most men, in that narrow cause which is at bottom that of their own self, fail to reflect that, from the point of view of the gospel, a simple act of selfishness may be found much more serious than a theft, for it contains the germ of all crimes, and it has not the excuse of material necessity.—[Vinet.]

Impossibilities.

Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself what you wish to be.—[Thomas A. Kempis.]

The best corrective of intolerance in disposition is increase of wisdom and enlarged experience of life. Hence men of culture and experience are invariably found the most forbearing and tolerant, as ignorant and narrow-minded persons are found the most unforgiving and intolerant.—[S. Smiles.]

MINNIE MAY'S DEPARTMENT.

MY DEAR NIECES:—

Do not affect to despise riches, for sneers levelled at those better off than ourselves in this world's goods look as if we were relieving the bitterness of our own feelings because we are less fortunate. It cannot be denied that the greatest power this earth holds for man is wealth. And the day the first deposit is made may be called the most important in that person's life, for it is the commencement of many a moral destiny, because the individual ceases to be a slavish dependent, and a sense of freedom from bondage and a new and fresh feeling of kindness to his fellow men is felt perhaps for the first time. The philanthropist who leaves the bulk of his estate to endow a college or found a hospital is a benefactor to his fellows. True, the possession of riches does not exempt us from pain, sickness, sorrow, or any other affliction, but it softens and alleviates them, and smooths the rough spots on the road of life that make the wrinkles come prematurely, and give us the heartache as they jar our sensibilities, and make us die before our time. We should not love them for themselves, but for all the good we can do with them. It is very true, little money is required to supply the necessities of life, but we may have enough to eat and be starving, for enough to eat is not the whole range of our wants: the mental faculties have a long list of requirements as well, which add much to the enjoyments of life. I need not enumerate them, for they are too well known, and the lack of means to gratify them too keenly felt by all unselfish persons. The possession of riches has an expanding, elevating influence, and its moral importance cannot be too highly rated. So do not underrate the mighty dollar and call it vulgar. It has been refined by man's labor and for man's use out of material God provided.

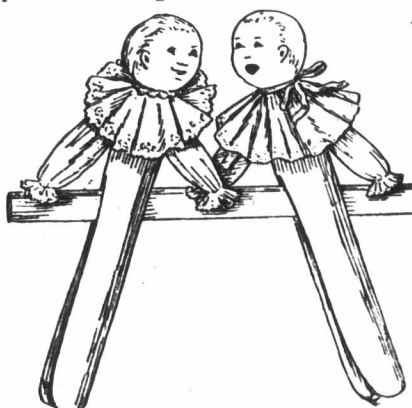
Thou more than stone of the philosopher!
Thou touchstone of philosophy herself!
Thou bright eye of the mind. Thou loadstar of the soul!
Thou true magnetic pole, to which
All hearts point duly north, like trembling needles!

MINNIE MAY.

P.S.—Minnie May offers a prize of \$2.00 for the best essay on "Home Nursing." All communications to be in our office by the 6th of January.

Page-Holder for a Music-Book.

An ingenious device, not only pretty and comical, but of practical value to the musically inclined. It is a book-opener or page-holder designed to hold open the leaves of large music-books used with pianos and organs. One of these holders—"musical attendants"—they are sometimes called—would make a charming gift for a musical friend of either sex.



PAGE-HOLDER FOR A MUSIC-BOOK.

Glue to the top a solid pad made of narrow strips of muslin or cambric wound into a round ball nearly an inch in diameter, pat it down around the top of the clothes-pin, wind a bit of muslin smoothly over the joining, cover the whole with a layer of sheet wadding, and over that fit a covering of soft white or flesh-tinted silk, making it as smooth as possible and tying it on, around the neck of the pin, with a tightly drawn thread. For the arms, make little rolls of cambric, cover them with silk or lace baby sleeves, and attach them, one at each side of the neck, with needle and thread and a drop



Page Holder.

of glue on the shoulder of the pin. Paint the faces as represented, using oil or water colors; or simply sketch the features and lightly outline the hair with sepia. Put a ruffle of embroidered silk or pretty lace around the neck, finishing it at the top with a shirred heading or a ribbon tied in a bow at one side. Mount the pins on a slender gilded or enameled hardwood stick, passed through them as seen in the sketch and glued to position; then, with tiny tacks and glue,



Page Holder.

Open a music-book, slip the pins over the top, one on each side, and see how useful the happy, smiling little twins can be. As sketched, one is trying with all its little might to assist in the sing-

ing, while the other is delightedly listening. Another holder might represent a pair of lovers ecstatically singing together, and another a pair of quarrelling choir-singers; by the artistic, the little figures may be made to represent any chosen characters. But those who can draw but little may produce very pleasing effects by first sketching the faces, then dressing the figures according to the resulting expressions.

Single pins make pretty openers for any book. One shows a single pin representing a fat urchin, in a cape and scarlet cap, trying to look like a frowning, spectacled student. It was designed for a fun-loving maiden whose fiancé was of a serious, literary turn. The other is a quaint little "old-fashioned girl" in a frilled cap and lace cape.

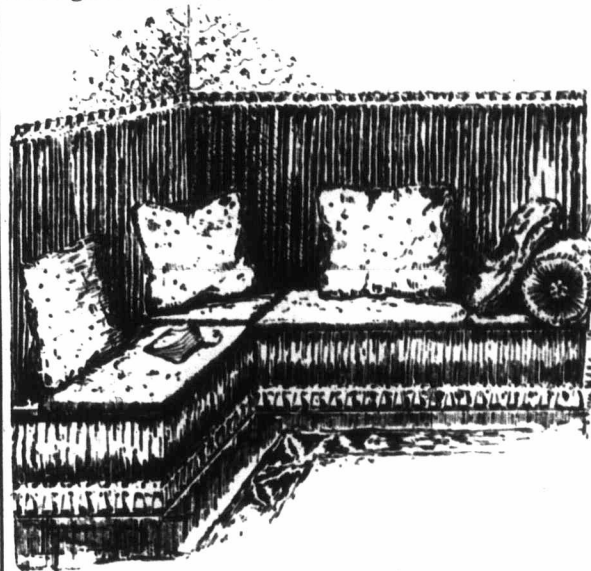
These single pins are so easily trimmed that dozens, all differing, might be prepared in a short time and utilized as party favors or prizes.—[Frances H. Perry, in Demorest's Family Magazine.]

Cosy Corners.

BY EVELYN L.

To have one's house cosy and home-like should be a primary consideration. No matter how expensive the furnishing, nor how careful the arrangement, if there be no air of home life about a room, it lacks what should be its chief charm. In these days of art magazines and deft and ready fingers, even the housewife with a scanty purse need not despair of keeping pace with at least a few of the new ideas in art decoration, and of giving to her home some of those pretty touches which serve so materially to brighten and beautify it. Soft draperies of silk or even of the art muslins which come in such lovely designs will be found very effective, if care be exercised in the harmonizing of colors and surroundings.

The tendency of late years has been to allow full scope for individual taste in furnishing, and the result has been a decided advance from an artistic point of view. With what an involuntary shudder do we recall that "best room" of years gone by, which was indeed a study in cold, dreary stiffness. The black hair-cloth furniture, decorated with tidies of wonderful pattern and hue, the ornaments on mantel or centre-table standing primly in pairs, the pictures hung at the same level and safely out of reach, all combined to form a picture we desire to forget as quickly as possible.



Drawing-rooms and all rooms are much more comfortable than they used to be, and one pretty fashion of the present, which bids fair to last, is the fitting up of cosy corners.

The design shown in our first illustration is about as simple and convenient an arrangement as can be devised, and its construction is described in one of our leading exchanges as follows:—

"The foundation consists of two boxes (which may be made of ordinary hemlock boards, such as are used for packing purposes) and should be provided with hinged covers, which form the seat. The covers must be hinged about three inches from the back line, so as to permit their falling back against the wall when raised; and should be made in two sections, the piece of seat in the angle of corner to remain stationary. The seat should measure sixteen inches from the floor without the cushion, and be twenty-four inches deep to the wall; the length, of course, being governed by the size of available space. The inside of the boxes may be lined or painted, as desired. The expense after this much has been accomplished depends entirely on one's choice of material for upholstery and drapery. Any pretty pattern in chintz or cretonne, of which there are numberless patterns and colorings to be had at prices to suit all purses, would be most suitable for a bedroom or boudoir. The figured denim may be used, or jute or any of the similar materials that come at moderate prices. India silk, or some one of its imitations, can be used for the wall guard, and should be plaited or gathered on two brass rods attached to the wall, at the top and bottom respectively. The pillows may be of the goods used for the guard, but it is not unusual to have them of different colors and materials. The seat may be upholstered with a few folds of an old quilt, or hair can be purchased by the pound for stuffing. The round bolster may be omitted,